Availability of water in the country

†719. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of additional water in the country through rain and rivers is possible only for the very short period;

(b) if not, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) if so, the estimate made for the time period in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that requirement of water in the country can be met only by way of storing water in the above situation; and

(e) if so, Goverment's reation thereto and prospective scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) About 75% of rainfall occurs during monsoon period (June to October) with a considerable part from a few spells of intense rainfall.

(d) For meeting the requirement of water in the country, it is necessary to store and conserve the water.

(e) Major, medium & minor water resources schemes are planned by the respective State Governments for meeting the requirements. Further measures like rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge are also adopted for conserving the water.

Privatisation of Water Distribution System in Delhi

720. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals on the anvil for reforming the water distribution schemes of State Governments sponsored by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the present status of each of these projects;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware of the reported move by the State Government of Delhi to privatise the water distribution system in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No such projects of reforming the Delhi Jal Board Water Distribution System is being sponsored by World Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As far as Delhi Jal Board is concerned there is no proposal to privatize the water distribution system in Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.

Pending irrigation projects

721. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an in-depth discussion took place between Prime Minister and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad on 14th November, 2004 regarding 26 pending irrigation projects costing Rs. 46,000 crores for creating a potential of 60 lakhs acres and stabilizing 35 lakhs acres of existing Ayacut with a provision of drinking water to a population of 48 lakhs;

(b) whether in this regard, Andhra Pradesh sought the support of Central Government in the form of guarantees to raise debt finance, annuity payment, irrigation bonds and commercial loans; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Hyderabad, the irrigation development programme taken up by the State Government was apprised.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.